

VOICES FROM THE WALL PART 1



MEMORIAL WALL OF HOPE AND HEALING



Project Principals:
Christine Seidl
Sandra Shackelford
Margy Cottingham

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Mandala
KATHLEEN BAIERL

My mandala represents my journey since the diagnosis of my cancer. The center is teal colored, which is the color of the ribbon associated with ovarian cancer. This is surrounded with bright yellow/orange which represents the beauty and wonderfulness one experiences after finishing chemo and finding one's self in remission. The purple stones set in white glass are indicative of my struggle with major depression nine years ago. To me, at that time, life was meaningless (white) or dark (purple). After hitting rock bottom, I began to emerge and face life with a new gusto, as in everything was GREEN to GO. The surrounding blue represents peacefulness and security in placing my troubles with God.



Flying Dragonflies with Grass
DARRYL BEERS

I chose my design (flying dragonflies with grass) because of my affinity for dragonflies. As an outdoor/landscape photographer for over 20 years, I've had many wondrous encounters with these magnificent creatures. I am fond of them for their beauty (particularly the iridescent glow of their wings) and their acrobatic flying skills. Dragonflies are symbolic of change, personal growth and emotional maturity. The radiant shine of their wings is a dance of color and light – attributes which are precisely what I seek to add to my world.



Initially, I chose to have two dragonflies simply because two were more artistically appealing than one. But, as I worked on the mosaic and became more entwined with it, the choice of two dragonflies evolved to be representative of the realization that I have never been alone in my struggles with cancer – or with any other difficulties in my life for that matter. The grass was originally chosen for its artistic merit as well. It added an element of contrast and a sense of flowing. (Andamento! in mosaic-speak.) But again, as I became more involved in the process, I grew to realize that for the free-flying dragonflies, the grass provided a feeling of place – a sense of home.



Essence
MELISSA BEERS

Fearless and fragile.
Strong and sensitive.

The Couple
MARGY COTTINGHAM

They are a couple of their time. He leads, she follows and they do it very nicely. There is no gray area between them. Their roles in life are clearly defined and they accept them with honor and grace. They live their lives dedicated to family and faith. She becomes ill with cancer and when she passes, he loses his beloved soul mate, for she is his essence and he is hers. He visits her resting place every day. He replaces spent flowers with new ones. On Christmas, her favorite holiday, he covers her with a blanket of red roses. It is his turn just a few years later. Both believe they will be reunited again.



If heaven exists, this is how it went. She waits. She paces back and forth, wringing her hands, tapping her foot, letting others go ahead of her as she watches over her shoulder for him. She can wait. She will not experience this without him. When he arrives, there are tears of joy and shrieks of laughter. Now they can see it, just ahead. Two souls united again, moving into the light in which they never lost faith.

Ripples
JOYCE FRITZ

My mosaic is about ripples, ripples in the water. When you throw a stone in the water, ripples result. When you throw several stones in the water, it causes intersecting ripples.



Water is healing. It can soothe when it is warm, refresh when it is cool. Water is clear; it reflects the color of everything around it. The colors in this piece were inspired by the colors reflected in a river as my canoe passed over its surface.

The stones in this piece come from Lake Superior, not far from where the river empties into the lake. The process of gathering stones was like a meditation.

This piece is dedicated to three women whose lives, like the ripples, intersected with mine, Annie, Judith and Rosemary. Teacher, artist, poet. They did not know each other, but I knew each of them. Each died of ovarian cancer.



I AM
MARY MARGARET GAJESKI

I fear, I deny, I struggle.
I am one of all people.
I ache, I weep, I grieve.
I am one of all people.
I hear, I feel, I accept.
I am one of all people.
I rejoice, I sing, I love.
I am all people.

Life is created in fragments. With cancer, it is also taken away in fragments. (Mother, nurturer, wisdom, strength, grace.)

The Hunt
KARLA GUNNLAUGSSON

The challenge of designing a morel mushroom for my mosaic was almost as challenging as the hunt for them. I wasn't sure I was up to it. Fighting breast cancer poses its challenges as well. Undergoing chemotherapy and radiation is similar to designing and putting together a mosaic. But I did both! I never could have achieved either challenge if I did either alone.



THE HUNT, words pieced together with Scrabble tiles and placed near the top of my mosaic represent the hours spent playing Scrabble and hunting for morel mushrooms. "THE HUNT" also represents the hunt for a cure for cancer.

Cutting the green shades of glass for the blades of grass was the easiest of the mosaic-making process for me. Cutting the tiles to create the mosaic itself was the most difficult because I was trying to follow the design of my drawing. The blue of the sky was a bit easier. Watching it all come together each night was fulfilling and so much fun. Yes! I'm hooked.

The Healing Power of Water
KATHI HANSEN

My mosaic design shows my journey with breast cancer. The river flowing through the design represents so many things – my love of water, the life-giving and healing power of water, the idea of my life flowing along. In the water are musical notes, representing the soothing sounds of moving water, my love of music and the important role music plays in my life and especially in my cancer journey.



"In the lower left corner of my mosaic is a pink ribbon, representing breast cancer, a truly horrible disease. But the ribbon also represents the volunteer and advocacy roles and activities I have undertaken since my diagnosis, the people I have met and the friendships that have developed because of my cancer experience. The red "hearts" represent the love and support of my husband, Kevin, as well as my friends and family members. They are scattered throughout the design because the love and support came at different times and in different ways throughout my journey. Finally, the field changes from brown barrenness to green vitality, representing the change I've experienced from the fear and devastation of the cancer diagnosis and treatment to the rich and full life I am now living.

Sun and Soul
MARTHA HAUGEN

This is a design of a radiant, pulsating SUN sending its beams of light and influence into dark brokenness, sending its beams of light through the chaotic crack.



My mosaic is also symbolic of the golden luster of the individual SOUL mirroring and radiating its earthly lifetime, drawing in energy through its leaves for growth in this earthly lifetime, getting its earthly bearings from the Four Directions.

The design is for our friend Lois Majchrzak who was a most loving family person, a compassionate friend and an inspiration. She once told me that she loved everyone, and I believe that to be true. She carried that idea like a commandment in her heart. We learned so much from her. She was an inspired teacher. She is missed.

Lotus Blossom Mosaic
MARY ANNE HILL

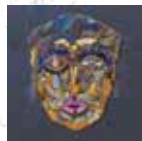
The design I have chosen is a pink lotus blossom floating on a serene turquoise sea. One can see the blossom's dark magenta reflection, as well as segments of its strong stem and the green lily pads that surround it.



I am drawn to the lotus blossom because it is a symbol of hope, reawakening and rebirth. It is an image that symbolizes that dark periods of my life are over and, at least for today, I have risen above them. It is a reminder that rebirth happens over and over, just as the lotus blossom closes each night and rises back up above the water at daybreak. There are no promises or guarantees, although the blossom relies on the strength of its stem, the nourishment of the lily pads and the serenity of the waters to blossom during its day in the sun. The pink blossom is the color of breast cancer; the magenta shadows are the reflection of uncertainty, which underlines hope. The variegated blue-tinted waters represent different experiences that touch and hold one up along the journey, as well as the peace and serenity of sky and water. The lily pads represent nurturance and the help of everyone along the way. The segments of the stems remind us that we are attached to a strong center that has risen out of the darkness and pushed us toward the light.

The Mask
SUSAN HOBERG

Mara Galaty, in whose memory I created this mosaic, collected masks in her world travels. She was my sister's step-daughter, a warrior who fought cancer for ten years. Cancer didn't slow her down.



Reflecting on the idea behind my mosaic, I believe that words are permanent cement (the glue) of the mosaic story. Pieces of memory interlock and join together to become whole. Grieving rivers of tears become a healing therapy during our group's mosaic-making process. During our mosaic sessions we shared each other's journeys moving toward wholeness of mind, body and spirit.

My Mosaic Story
JOELLYN KACYNSKI – Anni's Mom

This mosaic is a recreated design of an original drawn by my daughter, Anni Kacynski, and lovingly created in her honor and memory. She was diagnosed at age 12 with a rare childhood bone cancer, Ewing sarcoma. While living eight more years through rigorous treatment, she did not allow the cancer to shadow or define her. Anni's life was a testament to the power and joy of art. Through color, shape, and melody Anni was able to translate, inspire, and share the beauty of life she so loved. Her design portrays her translation and inspiration for a unique life view.



"b" – represents Anni's philosophy to just "be." "be mindful, be grateful, be joyful" and living for the moment. She gently persuaded others to seek this peaceful existence.

Lotus flower – is known for resilience to grow out of murky water to seek light and bloom beautifully. Inspired by these qualities, Anni would live her life to the fullest moving from dark to light, aware of the beauty it would bring forth, which she joyfully shared with others.

Chakras – our bodies seven energy centers each with a corresponding color that enable us to heal - body, mind, spirit. Anni embraced energy work through Reiki and healing touch for chakra alignment to help her heal.

Circle – to represent one of Anni's favorite quotes, "I am a part of all that I have met."

Annie, The Dragonfly
ANDY LELAND WATERMAN

My design is to honor Annie Cook, an early childhood teacher, and to celebrate her joy for young people and young people's energy. My mosaic is about children's energy. I wanted to put some of Annie's energy and her husband's energy, too, in the design.



I chose children reaching up to a dragonfly because Annie liked dragonflies. And when her husband returned from kayaking up north by Lake Superior, he always brought stones home to Annie.

I also thought of my mother, the quilt maker. In quilting she took scraps of material and made something beautiful out of them. It added depth to the mosaic experience.

For Bobby and Michael
JEAN OLEKSY



The design for the mosaic has to do with my sister and myself and our families. Both of us have sons who have died. Our son, Bobby, died in 1986 from AIDS. My sister's son, Michael, took his life last November. The mosaic that I made – with lots of help – represents our two families and our two sons.

The top border of my mosaic contains circles and triangles. The circles represent my sister and her daughter. The triangles represent her husband and two sons. The bottom border also contains circles and triangles. The circles represent me and my daughter. The triangles represent my husband and four sons.

The red ribbon is in remembrance of Bobby. The yellow ribbon is in remembrance of Michael. I put the heart on the yellow ribbon because that heart represents the survivors.

I'm not sure why I put the rainbow in the background. Rainbows represent hope. Rainbows appear after storms. I guess the rainbow represents the promise that things will get better.

The Chameleon
CHRISTINE SCHULTZ

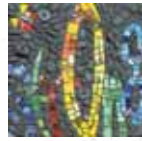
For my mosaic piece, I chose a chameleon as the main design element, which represents change. About ten years ago, I was diagnosed with a rare neurological condition called Chiari Malformation. This is a defect of the skull which causes the brain's cerebellum to protrude through the opening in the base of the skull into the spinal canal. This blocks the circulation of spinal fluid in the brain causing many symptoms such as pain, nausea, dizziness, vertigo and insomnia.



However, as difficult as these challenges have been, they have also made me question who I am and what I really want out of life. Overall they have helped me evolve into a stronger, wiser person, and for that I am very thankful. In my mosaic, the number 42 represents the age I was when my life came to a huge turning point. It was at this point in my life when I finally started learning how to live with my terrible symptoms. And I like to think I was moving beyond the "why me" stage and really started to appreciate what life should be all about.

STRONG
KRISTINE SCHWARTZ

Unity is strength.
Knowledge is power.
Attitude is everything.
Live STRONG.



Namaste
CHRISTINE SEIDL

I was in awe of the mosaics being created at Beacon House and wanted to participate rather than watch! I did my design thinking of my experience at Beacon House. The three figures in my mosaic represent the people who have become part of my life here and several who have passed on.



The rays are the Beacons of hope, a symbol for the healing resources available to us. The Namaste hands represent that place in all of us where the universe dwells, that place which is love, truth, light and peace.

"When you are in that place and I am in that place, we are ONE," shown as ONE HEART in the middle figure. The rays above the heads symbolize the divine in each of us that shines from within us.

Flower, Heart, Halo and Cross
KRISTIN SHACKELFORD LEMMENS
for Leidy Teresa Perez-Monreal

Leidy Perez-Monreal was born Aug. 15, 1995. She passed away April 15, 2010 after a yearlong struggle with Leukemia.



One of the first things Leidy gave me to thank me for helping her with her math was a piece of art, delicately drawn on a post-it note. It was a picture of a flower. When she was in St. Vincent hospital she drew the image for this mosaic – a heart, a cross, a halo and a rose. I feel blessed that I had the ability to act as Leidy's hands when she was unable to create the mosaic for herself. Leidy was spiritually right there with me as I worked to create her mosaic. Her inspiration empowered me to express myself artistically, too. Creating this mosaic helped me cope with dear Leidy's illness. I found that there were others trying to work through the devastation of cancer and other illnesses that affected their lives as well.

Portrait of Lee Bock
SANDRA SHACKELFORD



Brokenness. Wholeness. Those two words defined me before I met the incredible woman whose life inspired this MEMORIAL WALL OF HOPE AND HEALING. I reached for hues that I use in my pencil drawings – shades of gray, black, white. Lee shook her head. "No," she whispered when I reached out to select that pale palette. "I am a woman of the earth," she reminded me – farm wife, mother and so much more. "Use those fine, warm tones, the radiating raincoats of Mother Earth." And so I did. The branches of Eleanor, Lee's favorite tree, weave in and out through hair rough as the earth in newly plowed fields. Her face glows with the soil's warm tones. Her big brown eyes engage every one who passes by. Stand before her. Look deeply. Take from her what she has always so freely given. Honesty. Openness. Love.

Eleanor
SANDRA SHACKELFORD



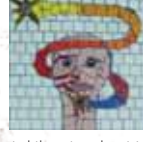
Whenever Lee Bock had a few moments to herself, she and her dog, Binga, would walk the road and sit beneath the sheltering branches of her sister oak, Eleanor. Eleanor is an old tree. Eleanor has seen everything over a span of one-hundred years. Eleanor is wise. Lee would rest her back against the tree's rough bark and absorb Eleanor's wisdom. Throughout her childhood, Lee and her birth family had no permanent roots. Her father worked the oilfields. She lost count of the number of times they moved. Like Eleanor, she and her husband, Bob, and their sons, Andy, Jeb and Michael, sank their roots deep in the land that nourished and defined her.

Acorn
SANDRA SHACKELFORD



This is the third mosaic in this triptych tribute to Lee Bock. "From small acorns mighty oaks grow." Lee didn't think of her self as mighty. She was wrong. She handed out Eleanor's acorns freely reminding each of us that maxim, encouraging all the people she mentored. The energy within the acorn's small, brown hull is like the heart's potential. There's so much inside. Once planted, growth takes root. If nurtured properly, wholeness emerges when the heart opens itself to love.

Emerging from the Pain
MARY SPERRY



The mosaic face is mine and the red streaks and small pieces of broken tiles on the face represent the pain I have endured. The lower flame orange starburst is my tumor. The stone in the center is actually the size of "Norton" (my non-cancerous tumor), resting on my brainstem. The rainbow's circular path is my journey inspired by the mandala I use when meditating in an effort to control the pain and anxiety that changed my life. The spiral and lightning colors go upward to a starburst that represents my journey of the past ten years to the emergence into the place I am now. I have accepted my pain and the life changes and am using them to grow and live a full life.

The Tree of Life
ANNIE UDELL



My mosaic design is the Tree of Life. My sisters and I are five-time breast cancer survivors. The idea behind my mosaic came from my sister, Joan, who is a water and stained glass artist. The tree symbol represents each of our birthdays. My mosaic design represents how each of us found our cancer and yet are still beautiful and courageous women.

Mother
KATHLEEN ZIETLER



My name is Kathleen Zietler, daughter of June Zietler who passed away from cancer in 1969. I am blessed to be a survivor of breast cancer since 1994.

My design is taken from a photo of my mother. The photo was taken one year before she passed away. I want others to know that if our mothers died of cancer, it does not mean that we can't be survivors. Not until my fifth year of being cancer free did I realize that I had wasted many years planning my funeral instead of planning my life.

VOICES FROM THE WALL PART 2



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The Wave
DORIS BEZIO

When I chose water as a symbol, I was thinking of how my friends loved water for its serenity, relaxation and enjoyment. As time went on, it took on a deeper significance; water as the beginning of life on earth, the source, connecting us all to each other, forever in motion, changing while remaining the same. I thought of the tides, like earth breathing and the power of waves, crashing against the rocks... Those I wish to honor with my mosaic are as powerful as the waves – Mary, Lee, Marie, Kizzy, Helen, Paul, Arlene, Sandy, Theresa, Jim, Jeremy, David.



Red Canoe
JANE BLAMEUSER

The essential elements for life on earth illustrate the metaphor of my mosaic: land, water, sky. The path in life wanders through light and dark, twists and turns, yin and yang, never knowing where the journey will go. The floating canoe has tumbled through rapids, calm and swift water and now slows down as the shore comes into sight. The vibrant sky reflects the light of life as it passes through time on earth. Life is the gift that we are given. To nourish and embrace the earth and its creatures is the gift we give to the future.



One is for Bad News
KIRSTIN COWAN

Counting Crows...
One is for bad news. Two is for mirth. Three is a wedding. Four is a birth. Five is riches. Six is a thief. Seven is journey. Eight is for grief.



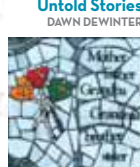
...(Crows) are symbols of doom, evil and death.

Cancer is a tornado. It comes bearing down without warning, roaring into our lives and destroying everything. It decimates your health, your finances, your home life. If you survive, you kiss the ground and thank GOD you're alive. Then you look around and wonder why, because everything you worked for all your life is gone.

And the crow is watching it all.

Untold Stories
DAWN DEWINTER

My mosaic art piece represents the untold stories of the people who have touched my heart. These people include mothers, friends, family members and colleagues. Creating this mosaic was very special to me because it has given me the opportunity to meet new people who have had or have cancer and to see how their lives go on even though they have to face some very tough life challenges... I hope my mosaic touches other peoples' lives as much as the experience has touched mine.



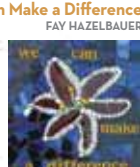
Love, Hope and Faith
LOUISE EGAN

Despair and anger surrounded me with the second diagnosis of cancer within a year. My cloud shows the darkness my life seemed to be enveloped in along with the pearl tears that fell. However, from the clouds came the love and strength that was given me by my family and friends. Calls, cards, visits and meals all came at just the right time. The heart rising from my cloud represents the love that surrounded me then and continues to support me as I go through my treatments. Along with the love from family and friends, comes the hope that God gives us in the form of the rainbow. As I gaze into the bright blue skies and see the sun that shines so bold, I am amazed at the wonders of God's blessings and know that He has truly touched my life as He walks each day with me.



We Can Make a Difference
FAY HAZELBAUER

One of my favorite flowers is the star gazer lily. I find it a bright and cheerful flower with such a distinct color scheme for the petals and white ruffled edges. After tracing the flower onto the board, I chose the colored glass and learned how to cut the pieces so there was a flow to the flower. I think of working with the small glass pieces as trying to put my life back in some type of order and coping with chemo's aftermath. After a few weeks, the lily started taking shape and so was I.



Cancer and "The Wall"
BETTY HEISER

The Execution Wall. You feel like a prisoner, waiting to hear from the doctor... The Wailing Wall. You do a lot of crying and praying, hoping it's not malignant... The Wonder Wall. You wonder if you'll live or not... what treatments you'll need... The Wall of Hope. If you know God, he helps you through... He gives you hope.



My mosaic is a rose, my favorite flower. The four leaves represent my four children. The two dew drops represent my mom and sister who both died of cancer (and also all the tears you shed). The two thorns represent the two times I've had cancer. The perfume essence represents my positive attitude and thanks to God.

Cycles
KATHLEEN JOHNSON

My mosaic represents life's journey interrupted by unexpected Stage 3 Her 2 breast cancer. Life IS change. Like the chapters in a book, some are wonderful and others, life shattering. My mosaic started with the cup or glass...made of brilliantly colored flower petals...then, my thoughts and feelings grew from a place inside that told me to use colors as symbols that matched my feelings. No matter what, if your cup runneth over with love, there is always hope. Love on a broad level. Like the Sun and the Moon, their meaning goes deeper than being merely beautiful to view. They change the tides and help continue the circle of life. The saying, "You can't change the wind but you can adjust the sail." We sail through life and we have calm days and stormy days. We adjust the sails to survive.



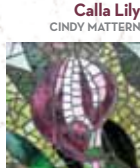
Flowers In Bloom
SALLY LANGAN

The design of FLOWERS IN BLOOM represents both life and energy. A bud bursts forth from the foliage surrounding it, fresh in morning dew and awaiting the blush of sunrise. Opening, its petals hold the light, reflecting the hues of dawn; tender, untainted, unblemished shades Gently unfolding, nature embraces it, strengthens and forces its full potential. The life within emerges, coloring the flower, defining its being. Life outside, the sun, wind and rain, deepen its color. Ultimately, these forces also sap energy, diminishing, drying, encrusting its delicate essence. Some petals fade, others drop.



Calla Lily
CINDY MATTERN

I chose the calla lily as the subject of my mosaic because of the beauty in the simplicity of the strong and long-lasting bloom. Even though the flower is simply elegant, the mosaic calla lily is designed from arranging glass cuts large and small, each being just as significant to the design as the others.



Broken Heart With Tears
BETH NIEC

When I was asked if I would like to learn to make a mosaic, I was in immediately... My design is what I felt like that first month of going through the examinations, the doctors and the acceptance of breast cancer. I chose the hearts because mine hurt so terribly the day the surgeon said the words none of us thought we'd hear...he held my hand and shed a few tears...



The blue skies represent the world we are connected with. We must remember there are others that have gone through less and those who have gone through a LOT more...and we are where God wants us to be. "He gives us no more than we can handle."

Making this mosaic reminds me of putting our lives and selves back together piece by piece and bringing new textures and people into the mosaic of our lives...One piece. One tile at a time...keeping what is important to you close to your Heart.

Through The Kindness of Others
SUSAN NUGENT

This mosaic of an out-stretched hand represents all the people who have helped me and supported me. Cancer is a devastating disease that affected not only me but also my family and friends. Through the challenges of diagnosis, surgery, treatment and recovery, they have been there for me. I have also received support from my counselor, the nurses, doctors, technicians, volunteers and many amazing people I have met along the path. Thank you all for giving me a renewed life. I have been touched by your kindness.



In Memory of Laura Diedrick
ARLENE RENTMEESTER

The photo that inspired my mosaic was taken by Laura (at her cabin) in Newfoundland. It was one of her favorites. It reminds me of her because, like the icebergs in my mosaic, what we saw of her abundant love and her innumerable gifts were just the tips of what went much deeper.



I have been interested and believe in the Memorial Wall of Hope and Healing because of the huge support it offers people. I believe it gives significant recognition to the lives and achievements of its recipients. My friend Laura Diedrick is one of these. She was an amazing lady...she was a multi-talented graphic artist and established herself locally, sinking deep roots of philanthropic involvement here in the community. It seemed easy the way she could depict and present another's dreams with her ideas. Laura was always eager to share her time and many talents with anyone in need.

My Story
DIANE SCHLIES

Through this fine art form I have been able to express my feelings. This design represents how I felt during my treatment.



I received a beautiful brown rosary from a very special nurse...It is woven between the branches of my favorite maple tree. This symbolizes strength, wisdom and prayers, things that accompany me through this journey. The cocoon represents the gentleness I received from wonderful, warm, understanding and caring people. Now I have become a beautiful spring butterfly with teal wings.

Pea Vine with Pods and Ribbon Tendrils
TANIA SHOOK

When choosing a subject for my mosaic, I wanted to show how cancer was not the focus of our lives, only one facet among others. My mosaic is a pea vine with full pods and with tendrils becoming an orchid ribbon for (my husband) Alan's testicular cancer and a pink ribbon for my breast cancer. I wanted to express that life goes on, that we have been able to live fully even in the shadow of cancer. That is why I portrayed the ribbons as small off-shoots instead of front and center. We have been able to keep our children and each other front and center and not let cancer dominate our lives.



Divine Choices
GINNY LEE SISCOE

Divine choices I've made in my life include



My soul mate and husband, Randy, of whom I could ask no more;

Our musical career which has sustained us spiritually and financially;

And my beloved, treasured friend, Carolyn, who has been a source of reason, strength and joy.

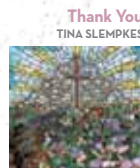
Jimi Hendrix
RANDY SISCOE

I'm here to support my wife, Ginny.



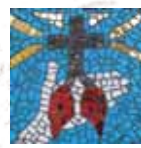
Thank You
TINA SLEMPKES

In 2004 I was first diagnosed with breast cancer. Shortly thereafter at Wednesday night church, we were told to thank God for everything going on in our lives. That was the hardest thing I've ever done. To talk to God and honestly be grateful for cancer. But something very special happened to me after that prayer. All the shock, anger and frustration left me. I realized that God was totally in control and nothing happens without His knowledge... My title represents the life of a Christian. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."... Along the path of life there is beauty which is represented by the roses and iris. But there are also thorns or troubles and work... The red pearls of the cross depict the blood Jesus shed for us... No one gets through this life unscathed.



Every Breath is in God's Hands
SHERRY LYNN STONE

My name is Sherry Lynn Stone. I am 52 years-old. I was diagnosed with lung cancer. On November 24, 2010 I had surgery to remove the left lobe of my lung. I went through chemo treatments for four months which was very rough. On July 7, 2011, I went in for my three-month check. On July 8, 2011 I was told everything looked great. By July 31, 2011, I ended up in the hospital with a stroke to the right side of my brain. I had an MRI and there was an almond sized tumor found on my brain. Now I am going through another process of healing. All I can say is, my plate is really getting full. I am trying very hard to become a success story. I thank all the people praying for me and for all the family support. But most of all, I need to thank the number one person in my life. That is GOD.

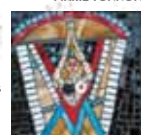


Sustained by Nature and Memory
ANN THOMAS



Piece Warrior
MARIE TONNON

The killing jars lined the stoop. Chloroform and paper strips Soft wooden separating boards for stretching wings Insect pins and cigar box display cases (their gaping mouths hungry for the treasures he would feed them).



Then, a Luna landed on him, She combed his platinum hair with her three pairs of legs And slowly walked down the side of his face, She winged her way to his hand, a prayer on skin, Her delicate antenna feathered his palm, Her eyes looked into him as he stroked gossamer wings.

Excerpt from poem titled "Lunar Eclipse".

For Bill
BEVERLY WATKINS (HURRLE)



I created this mosaic in honor of my late husband, Robert William Hurrle, Jr. (Bill)... For me, putting this mosaic together felt like I was recreating his life in a way that would not be forgotten, creating something tangible out of the spirit of an extraordinary and complex human being... You will see the bow of a canoe on the water... where he found great joy. The plant represents his deep connection to the earth... The sun speaks of his solar business... The peace sign with the mirror inside represents his identification with the 60s, his social activism and his wish that people see the peace within themselves.

Sunrise, Sunset
MARY WINDEY



I chose a sunrise to signify "a new day," "a new start," "a new beginning." Each of us faces crisis, sadness and heartache in our lives, but each new day presents us with a new start, another chance to get things right, to push on.

All You Need Is Love
MIKE WINTER FOR APRIL SHIRTZINGER



The colors of happiness will surround her heart forever. April had a heart that held the true meaning of life. She brought this great gift to all who knew and loved her. The music of love and happiness will play forever in her heart and soul.

Dance on Angel!!
Your friend, Mike